

REMARKS

The above-referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Office Action dated November 3, 2004. Claims 1-2, 18 and 20 have been canceled; Claims 3 and 19 have been amended; and new Claim 21 has been added. Accordingly, Claims 3-17, 19 and 21 are currently pending in this application. These amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. New Claim 21 covers subject matter comparable to that of amended Claim 19, and no new issues have been raised. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 1-2, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,602,494 to Sundstrom. Claims 1-2, 18 and 20 have been canceled.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 3-17 and 19 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of canceled Claims 1 and 2. Claim 18 has been canceled. Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of canceled Claim 18. Accordingly, amended Claims 3 and 19 are each in condition for allowance.

Original method Claim 20 has been canceled. New method Claim 21 has been added. New Claim 21 recites method steps comparable to the functions performed by


the means-plus-function elements of amended Claim 19. No new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised. Accordingly, new Claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Therefore, each of amended or new Claims 3, 19 and 21 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the '494 patent to Sundstrom, whether taken alone or in combination with any of the other references of record in this case.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 3, 19 and 21 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above. Since Claims 4-17 each depend from one of the above claims and necessarily include each of the elements and limitations thereof, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated, and for reciting additional patentable subject matter. Thus, each of Claims 3-17, 19 and 21 is in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, reconsideration of the rejections and an early and favorable allowance of this case is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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